



Representative

**Kirk Pearson • 39th District**

## **2002 Session Report**

January 2002

*Dear Neighbors,*

*So many things have changed in such a short amount of time since the Legislature adjourned last summer.*

### **Budget and economy**

*The Sept. 11 attacks dealt a devastating blow to an economy that was already heading for a downturn. I am very concerned about people losing their jobs and businesses closing their doors. While it has sharply affected incoming revenue to the state budget, I believe we need to cut bureaucracy, control spending, resist tax increases, and protect front-line services for working families and the most vulnerable.*

### **Change in leadership**

*In November, two special elections in other legislative districts within Snohomish County broke a three-year tie between Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives. Although Republicans are no longer in charge in the House, my commitment to work for issues important to our district remains undiminished. The challenges are enormous and the issues are too important to the families of our state. I plan to work in a bipartisan fashion to provide a strong voice for citizens in the 39th District.*

### **Redistricting changes 39th District**

*One other change is to the district itself. The latest proposal from the state's Redistricting Commission would extensively change the boundaries of the 39th District. It may mean that some of you receiving this newsletter may find yourselves in other legislative districts next year.*

*The scheduled 60-day legislative session convened Jan. 14. I hope this newsletter will help to address these changes and the many challenges we face in the 2002 session. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me. I appreciate the honor of serving you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kirk Pearson  
State Representative*

**House Committees:** Appropriations  
Natural Resources

### **MAILING ADDRESS:**

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1-800-562-6000



## Representative **KIRK PEARSON • 39th District**

### **Providing a balanced budget**

With the recession taking its toll on state revenues, we face a \$1.2 billion shortfall in the state operating budget. As this budget challenge is addressed, lawmakers must remember that Washington families are also facing challenges.



It would be easy to balance the budget simply by raising taxes. However, I don't think we should ask families to pay more when many are worried about their own income and dealing with the loss of jobs.

### **Governor's proposed budget**

The first plan to correct the budget shortfall was offered by the governor in December. It calls for cuts to disabled citizens, nursing homes, and pharmacists who provide prescription drugs to low-income citizens on Medicaid. It would also raise taxes by \$100 million, despite the governor's assurance that he wouldn't do so (see detailed summary).

In addition, the governor proposed to eliminate critical "backfill funding" the state has provided to our cities and counties to replace funding lost with the passage of Initiative 695. That's money for local police, fire, health, emergency services and criminal justice. Plus, his plan would provide early release for burglars and drug offenders while cutting community supervision.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I think a more responsible approach is to seek ways to cut bureaucracy with the least amount of impact on front-line services for needy and working families. We also should continue to resist pressure to increase taxes — especially when Boeing and other employers are laying off workers.

The state should do what working families do when they fall on tough times – establish priorities, control spending, pay for essential needs, and live within its means.

### **Governor's Budget Proposal**

#### **An Overview**

<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$21.374 billion</b>
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$22.530 billion</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-\$1.156 billion</b>
<b>Ending fund balance:</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Emergency Reserves balance:</b>	<b>\$303 million</b>

#### **Governor's proposed budget cuts:**

- \$35 million from nursing homes
- \$54 million from higher education
- \$34 million from Medicaid reimbursements for prescription drugs
- \$31 million from state assistance for the disabled
- \$14 million in block grants from K-12 schools

#### **Governor's proposed tax increases:**

- 3% liquor tax - \$4.7 million
- 10% gambling tax - \$73.7 million
- Use tax on shipping - \$20 million
- Hydraulic project fees - \$4.3 million
- Hunting & fishing license increase - \$1 million



**Representative Kirk Pearson shares a moment with President George W. Bush.**

# 2002 Session Report

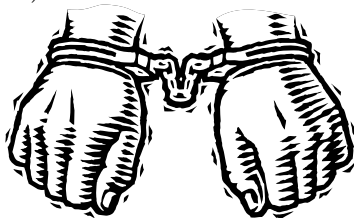
## Terrorism in all forms must be stopped

Long before the Sept. 11 attacks, I had proposed legislation to stop another form of terrorism known as “eco-terrorism.” An example of eco-terrorism is the fire last spring at the University of Washington’s Center for Urban Horticulture, determined to be set by arsonists with a social agenda. The most notorious of these groups are ELF (Earth Liberation Front) and ALF (Animal Liberation Front).

The legislation I proposed last year would have updated the state’s criminal sabotage laws to target eco-terrorists. Although the measure came close to passing, time ran out before the House could vote on the bill.

I decided after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to join with other lawmakers to expand our efforts to cover not only eco-terrorists, but terrorists in general. The result is new legislation I have co-sponsored in the House that makes criminal terrorism a Class A felony (up to life imprisonment) and terrorism activity a Class B felony (up to 10 years imprisonment). Activities that would count under these felonies include: malicious placement; intimidation; harassment; and detonation, release of, or threat to use or release a chemical, biological, explosive, incendiary, flammable, or radiological substance or device, whether real or imitation. It also would increase penalties for those who cause death as a result of these activities, and would list the terrorist activities under the state’s “Three Strikes, You’re Out” law.

We all have a new perspective following the terrorist attacks on the East Coast. One thing that is underscored by these activities: terrorism in all forms must be defeated and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.



## New boundaries approved for legislative districts

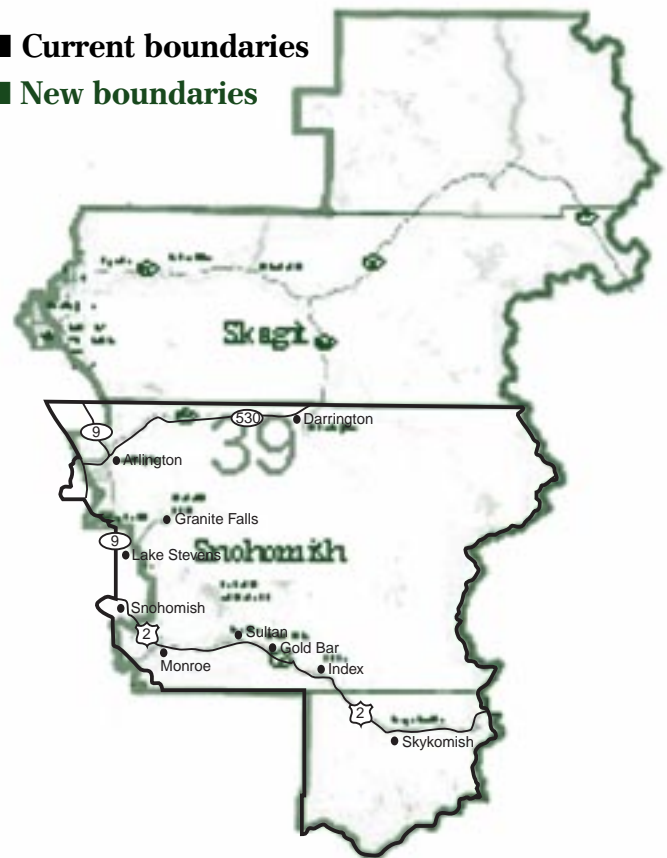
The state’s redistricting commission has agreed on new boundaries for the state’s 49 legislative districts. The borders are redrawn every ten years to reflect changes in population and to ensure equal representation throughout the state. The 39th District was the second fastest growing district in the state over the past decade. That meant the commission had to cut about 21,000 people from the district.

The new proposed 39th District moves the lines east away from Snohomish and Lake Stevens, losing those residents. The district, which is currently all of eastern Snohomish County and a little corner of King County, would include a larger portion of northeastern King County, moving north through east Snohomish County, and adds a large area of Skagit and Whatcom counties all the way to the Canadian border. It still includes Monroe, Arlington, Sultan, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, and Darrington, just to name a few communities.

The new legislative map will be in effect for races on the 2002 election ballot.

### ■ Current boundaries

### ■ New boundaries



## Improving transportation: Keeping highways safe and people and products moving

The Legislature will go back to the drawing board this session to try to solve the state's transportation needs. Negotiations on a funding plan broke down over the summer, leaving some critical projects throughout the state without funding.

The governor's plan includes a 9-cent gas tax increase, a 12-cent increase on diesel, increased sales taxes on car purchases, increased weight fees on trucks and RVs, and a \$50 license registration fee.

Before you, the taxpayer, are asked to pay one dime more, I believe you should know how the monies are being spent. We need a plan that will make a difference, not just make our lives more expensive. So far, the only plan I have seen is one that will produce higher taxes, not results.



## Contact me!

Thank you to all who visited my 39th District office in Snohomish during the past several months. Now that the Legislature is convening its 2002 session Jan. 14, my



Snohomish office has closed and I have moved operations to Olympia for the duration of the session. I still invite you to contact me any time you

have a question, concern or suggestion about state government. If you expect visit the state Capitol during session, call my office in advance and let me know you will be coming.

Here's how you may contact me:

By mail: **Rep. Kirk Pearson**

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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Toll-free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

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